

REMARKS

Initially in the Office Action dated November 5, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 7-9 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0 926 862 (Karibe et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,199,204 (Donohue). Claims 1 and 4-6 are allowed.

By the present response, Applicants have canceled claims 7-10. Claims 1 and 4-6 remain pending in the present application.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 7-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Karibe et al. in view of Donohue. Applicants have canceled these claims therefore rendering these rejections moot.

Allowed Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1 and 4-6 are allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 4-6 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

U.S. Application No. 09/648,451

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing attorney docket no. 500.38966X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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